

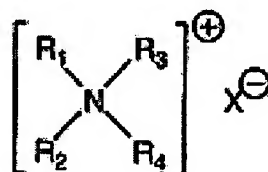
REMARKS

The Office Action dated March 23, 2006 alleges that the currently pending claims of the present application are directed to patentably distinct species “because compositions comprising surfactant blends comprising an antimicrobial compound, an anionic surfactant, a bridging surfactant, and optionally cationic surfactant have separate classification in the art.” (See Office Action dated March 23, 2006, at p. 2.) In accordance with the requirements of the March 23, 2006 Office Action, Applicants hereby make the following election of species and identification of the claims encompassing the elected invention. (See Office Action dated March 23, 2006, at p. 3.)

ELECTION

The Office Action requests that Applicants “elect a specific and completely define an antimicrobial compound, an anionic surfactant, a bridging surfactant, and optionally cationic surfactant for the invention.” (See Office Action dated March 23, 2006, at p. 3.) The Office Action further requests that Applicants “specifically name and completely define all additional ingredients desired.” (See Office Action dated March 23, 2006, at p. 3.) In accordance with these requests, Applicants hereby elect the following election grouping:

Antimicrobial compounds consisting of a quaternary ammonium compound of the formula:



wherein, R₁ and R₂ are straight or branched chain lower alkyl groups having from one to seven carbon atoms;

R₃ is a straight or branched chain higher alkyl group having from about eight to twenty carbon atoms, or a benzyl group optionally substituted with C₁-C₆ alkyl;

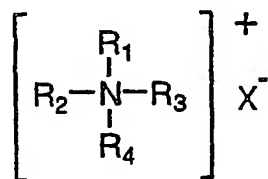
R₄ is a straight or branched chain higher alkyl group having from about eight to twenty carbon atoms; and

X is an anion forming a water soluble salt;

Anionic surfactants consisting of alkyl sulfates;

Bridging surfactants consisting of amine oxides;

Optional cationic surfactants which are quaternary ammonium compounds of the formula:



wherein R₁, R₂, and R₃ are independently ethyl or methyl groups;

R₄ is an alkyl group having an average of from about 8 to about 16 carbon atoms; and

X is halogen, sulfate, methosulfate, ethosulfate, tosylate, acetate, phosphate, nitrate, sulfonate, or carboxylate; and

Additional ingredients consisting of fragrances, emollients, solvents, humectants, optical brighteners, thickeners, powders, viscosity modifiers, hydrotropes, preservatives, bluing agents, dyes, absorbents, anticaking agents, antioxidants, antiperspirants, anitsoils, soil antiredeposition agents, antistats, binders, carriers, chelating/sequestering agents, colorants, pearlescents, conditioners, corrosion inhibitors, coupling agents, defoamers, detergent builders, dispersants, enzymes, flocculants, hair fixatives, lubricants, opacifiers, plasticizers, preservatives, release agents, scale inhibitors, solubilizers, stabilizers, suspending agents, waxes and polishes.

Applicants believe that currently pending claims 1-10, 14-16, and 20-22 read on the elected grouping, and therefore request prosecution of those claims on the merits.

CONCLUSION

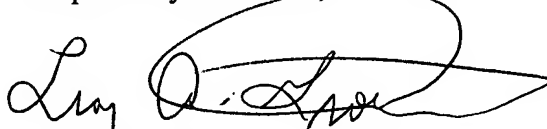
Applicants hereby elect the above described grouping for purposes of prosecution on the merits. Further, Applicants hereby elect pending claims 1-10, 14-16, and 20-22 in light of the grouping elected.

Applicants' election is made without prejudice to their right to file one or more divisional applications directed to any non-elected subject matter.

Applicants believe that there is a fee of \$120 due with this Response as provided with the associated one-month Petition for Extension of Time. The Commissioner is authorized to charge that fee, in addition to any other fees that may be necessary, or credit any overpayment, to the Deposit Account of McAndrews, Held & Malloy, Account No. 13-0017, with regard to this Response.

Dated: May 15, 2006

Respectfully submitted,



Troy A. Groetken
Reg. No. 46,442
Attorney for Applicants

McAndrews, Held & Malloy, Ltd.
500 West Madison Street, 34th Floor
Chicago, IL 60661
Telephone: (312) 775-8000
Facsimile: (312) 775-8100